

CITY ENGINEERING TIMES

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CENTRAL AVENUE COMPLETION TOPS 1996 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROJECT STARTED IN 1978

For nearly twenty years, the City has been working to improve its major north-south arterial street, Central Avenue.

The project began in 1978 with the idea of improving the intersection of 25th Street and Central Avenue, which was traditionally one of the most congested and accident prone in the city. The intersection improvements were constructed in 1987.

The design of the improvements from 10th Street to 25th Street began in 1982. Those improvements were constructed in 1985 and 1992. All phases of the project were designed by SIECO, Inc.

The final phases, from National Road to Bakalar Drive were completed in 1996.

The construction cost for all phases of the project totaled \$5,345,000. Approximately 80 percent of the cost was paid by federal funds. The project was constructed by Milestone Contractors (formerly Contractors United, Inc.) and Hunt Paving.

Major features of the improved Central Avenue include:

- Four lanes with left turn lanes at major intersections.
- New storm sewer system.
- Improved street lighting.
- Sidewalks with wheelchair ramps.
- New traffic signals.
- Replacement of street trees.
- New curbs and gutters.

FINAL PHASES COMPLETED

National Road to Rocky Ford Road

The widening and reconstruction of Central Avenue from National Road to Rocky Ford Road which began in 1995 was completed this year. Milestone Contractors, of Columbus, constructed the project at a cost of \$1,250,953.

The project included widening the street to four lanes, installation of curbs and storm sewers, construction of sidewalks including curb ramps, and the installation of streetlights. In November, 1995 the street was reopened for the winter. Crews finished the paving, installation of sidewalks, and the reconstruction of the Rocky Ford Road intersection this spring.

A tree planting program was offered to the home owners along this section of Central Avenue. As a result 27 new trees were planted this spring to replace some of the trees removed due to construction.

Rocky Ford Road to Bakalar Drive

Bids for the final phase, widening from Rocky Ford Road to Bakalar Drive, were opened in March. Hunt Paving, of Indianapolis, was awarded the contract at a cost of \$1,534,000.

The construction of this final phase was completed in November.

Streetlights are expected to be installed by PSI Energy this winter.

Funding of this project was 80% federal gas tax revenue and 20% local money.

Middle Road Project Completed

On October 31, 1995, the Board of Public Works and Safety awarded a \$281,400 contract to Milestone Contractors for the extension of Middle Road between Rocky Ford Road and National Road. This project has been discussed for many years. Recently, residential development in the area has increased the demand for this new collector. Completion of the street has relieved some of the congestion on Rocky Ford Road. The new street was completed and opened in May, 1996. Shortly after opening, Middle Road was carrying over 8,000 vehicles per day.

Hawcreek Avenue Widening

On July 16, 1996, the Board of Public Works and Safety awarded a contract to Milestone Contractors for improvements to Hawcreek Avenue from 19th Street to 25th Street. The total project cost is estimated to be \$309,835.

The project includes the installation of storm sewers, curb and sidewalks on the east side of the street, and widening the street by six feet. The street widening was completed in December. The completion of the sidewalk, tree planting, and seeding will be delayed until the spring of 1997.

Street Overlay Program Expanded

After a terrible winter, city streets were in desperate need of repaving in 1996. Thanks to additional funding from the Indiana General Assembly and an additional appropriation, the City's annual street overlay program was increased by nearly 300 percent to make it the largest in the city's history.

This year's program, covering 13.9 miles of streets, approximately 7 percent of the City's total street mileage, was completed by Milestone Contractors at a cost of \$857,891.

Also included in this year's program was the raising of manholes and water valves at a cost of \$99,387 and the installation of 103 curb ramps at a cost of \$74,489. The project also included the installation of thermoplastic pavement markings, which are much more permanent than paint, at a cost of \$41,675.

One other significant part of this year's program was the completion of the widening of River Road. The section north of Co. Rd. 400N was widened in cooperation with the County.

WalkWorks 96

WalkWorks 96, the City's sidewalk replacement program, was offered to all residential property owners in city this year.

This was the fifth year for the program which was established to encourage property owners to replace unsafe, deteriorated sidewalks and to build new sidewalks. Property owners paid \$6 per linear foot of sidewalk.

WalkWorks 96 replaced 4,613 linear feet of sidewalk across 84 residential lots. The total cost of the program was \$83,968 with property owners contributing \$31,350. Included in WalkWorks 96 was the installation of 27 new curb ramps in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center participated this year by offering interest free loans to homeowners in their neighborhood. The Columbus Housing Authority replaced sidewalks at 14 homes which they own.

In the 5 year life of the WalkWorks program, 28,600 feet (nearly 5 1/2 miles) of sidewalks have been replaced across nearly 400 residential lots and over 160 curb ramps have been installed.

WalkWorks is expected to continue in 1997 with applications due in February.

Central Avenue Sidewalk Constructed

After receiving requests in 1995, the City Council budgeted funds for the installation of a sidewalk along Central Avenue from 25th Street to National Road. Meetings with the residents led to the decision to install the sidewalk on the west side of the street.

In July, the Board of Public Works and Safety awarded a \$30,704 contract to Roberts Asphalt. The sidewalk was completed in August.

The completion of this sidewalk, in conjunction with the final phases of the Central Avenue project, make it possible to walk along the north-south arterial street from 10th Street to Bakalar Drive. The project included the installation of seven curb ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

More Sidewalks Built

Sidewalks were also built this year along Middle Road in the Broadmoor and Cedar Ridge area and along Parkside Drive. The City also participated in the sidewalk installation along Wilson Street Park on 9th Street.

New Streets Constructed

The construction of new subdivisions and new homes continued at a fast pace in 1996. Twenty five new streets were accepted by the city in eleven new subdivisions while construction began in six other subdivisions.

A total of 21,649 feet (4.10 miles) were added to the city's street inventory. In addition, 3,696 feet of Carr Hill Road was widened as part of the Charwood and Orchard projects.

The streets accepted by the city are as follows:

<u>Blackhawk</u>	
Tipton Lakes Blvd	580'
<u>Brookside North</u>	
Finchbrook Dr.	820'
Brookview Ct.	200'
<u>Charwood</u>	
Carr Hill Rd. (widening)	1175'
<u>Drive-In Commercial</u>	
Omega Dr.	2146'
<u>Flatrock Industrial Park</u>	
Long Rd.	2916'
<u>McCullough's Run Sec. 1 & 2</u>	
Talley Rd.	1150'
Sheridan Ct.	526'
Kennesaw Trail	1476'
Sherman Dr.	539'
Sherman Ct.	195'
Sumpter Ct.	237'
Sumpter Trail	567'
Hartford Ave.	144'
Regency Dr.	1060'
<u>Oakbrook Sec. 2 & 3</u>	
Acorn Dr.	1376'
Basswood Dr.	688'
Chinkapin Dr.	1232'
Plum Ct.	735'
Tipton Lakes Blvd.	1364'
<u>Orchard</u>	
Blossom Lane	1007'
Peach Tree Ct.	300'
Carr Hill Rd. (widening)	2521'
<u>Pintail Point</u>	
Tipton Lakes Blvd.	776'
<u>Ridge</u>	
Bull Run	653'
Cattle Drive	240'
<u>Stonebridge</u>	
Stonebridge Ct.	713'

Additional streets are under construction but have not been accepted in McCullough's Run, Prairie Streams Estates, Westlake Park, Northbrook, Princeton Park, and Jefferson Park.

Drainage Repairs

The city awarded contracts totaling \$155,158 for miscellaneous drainage repairs and improvements in 1996. This work was awarded through the quote process to five local contractors.

The 1996 drainage quotes included:

Storm Sewer Pipe, New	934'
Repaired Pipes	8
Inlets, New	13
Inlets, Repaired	21
Dry Wells, New	10
Dry Wells, Repaired	1
Curb, New	826'
Curb, Repaired	591'
Repaired Cross gutters	226'
New Underdrain	6310'
Repaired Manholes	3
Pavement Repairs	2573 SY

Some of the significant drainage problems addressed this year include the chronic ponding at 8th and Franklin, extension of the Chestnut Street storm sewer to the east, Riverside Drive curb and drywells, Eastridge Manor storm sewer extension, and the replacement of cross gutters in Flintwood Addition. The Board of Public Works and Safety also awarded a contract to Roberts Asphalt for the grading of the Arnold Street extension to Poshard Drive. The project will be completed in the spring.

13th Street Solution

A chronic drainage problem on 13th St. near Iowa and Pennsylvania Streets was solved in 1996. Long time residents of the neighborhood insisted that inlets on 13th St. once drained, but for many years have failed to do so. City garage crews frequently removed ponding water from this area. Closer investigation revealed an old storm sewer pipe running across Greenbelt Golf Course, draining to Haw Creek. The end of the pipe was completely buried in the creek bank. Pipe cleaning and reconstruction of the outfall was accomplished at a cost of \$3500.

New Equipment

Late in 1996 city engineer's office purchased a small video system constructed to allow viewing inside of pipes. This will help locate and diagnose pipe problems and result in timely, lower cost repairs.

New Street Cut Ordinance Adopted

The City Council adopted a new ordinance which restricts excavations within city streets at its December 17 meeting.

The ordinance is patterned after the county's ordinance which makes it easier for the utility companies and contractors to understand and comply with the ordinances.

Some of the goals of the ordinance are more timely repairs of street cuts, time limits for work on busy streets, more equitable bonding provisions.

Streetlights Planned

The City Engineer's office is working with PSI Energy to install new streetlight systems or to upgrade streetlights at several locations. The recently completed Central Avenue project between Rocky Ford Road and Bakalar Drive should soon have improved lighting to complete the project. Also planned are new streetlights on 10th Street and Taylor Road from Marr Road to 25th Street, State Road 46 from Goeller Road to Co. Rd. 350W, Middle Road between Northern Village and Rocky Ford Road, and Hawcreek Avenue from 19th Street to 25th Street.

Fire Station No. 6 Planned

The City Engineer's office has been involved in the planning and design process for the new fire station in the Woodside area. Assistance has been provided in architect selection, site selection, site preparation and grading, sight distance evaluation, access and traffic circulation, and drainage design. Construction is expected to begin next spring.

Traffic Signal Upgraded

In April, the Board of Public Works and Safety accepted a proposal from Signal Construction, Inc. to replace the traffic signal at 17th Street and McClure Road. The old signal was in poor repair and required frequent maintenance. The signal upgrade cost \$14,450 and included all new wiring, larger signal heads, and a new solid state controller. The project was completed in May.

New Traffic Signal on Boulevard

In December, the Board of Public Works and Safety approved a contract for the installation of a new traffic signal on Hawcreek Boulevard south of 7th Street at the entrance to the Cummins Plant No. 1 expansion. The signal will be needed for more than 150 delivery trucks per day and over 500 employees who will use that entrance.

Noblitt Park People Trail

The City Engineer's office assisted the Park Board in preparing plans for the extension of the Noblitt Park People Trail. That project was started in September and completed in October by Roberts Asphalt at a cost of \$30,538. The City Engineer also obtained the necessary permits from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and provided the construction inspection.

Carriage Estates Curb Ramps Installed

After receiving a request from a family with child in a wheelchair, the City installed curb ramps at 23 locations in Carriage Estates. North Contracting completed the project at a cost of \$5,002.

Opinion

Another extremely busy year in the City Engineer's office. The Central Avenue project is finally complete after nearly 20 years, Middle Road is finally open to several thousand vehicles per day, Hawcreek Avenue has been widened to accommodate traffic to and from the hospital, and the city's largest street repaving project has been completed. Over \$5.5 million in street construction was accomplished in 1996, including over \$1 million in new subdivision streets.

What is there to look forward to after a year like that? Terrace Lake Road is the top priority for the city next year.

Another top goal will be the completion of the Thoroughfare Plan. Great strides have been made in the last year to prepare the document for the Plan Commission. The plan will contain a schedule of proposed improvements to existing streets and plans for new streets. The importance of this plan, which will replace a 1968 plan, cannot be overstated, as Columbus continues to grow.

Interchange On Schedule

Construction began in September, 1995 on the first phase the Front Door Project, the reconstruction of I-65 and State Road 46 interchange. Milestone Contractors was awarded the \$23 million contract which includes the construction of a new overpass, reconstruction of the interchange, and the reconstruction of the bridges over the Driftwood River. This first phase is expected to be completed in July of 1997. The project is on schedule and on budget, a credit to good design and good construction supervision.

State Road 46 Widening Completed

Construction began in July, 1995 on the widening of State Road 46 west of the I-65 interchange. The \$2.4 million contract was awarded to L.P. Cavett of Seymour. The project was completed in July, 1996. The project included widening SR 46 to four lanes from I-65 west to Road 325W (past West Hill Shopping Center).

Front Door Project Ready for Construction in 1997

The reconstruction of State Road 46 from State Road 11 to I-65 is being readied for construction beginning in the spring of 1997. This portion of the project includes improved lighting, reconstruction of the roadway, construction of medians and left turn lanes, installation of a traffic signal and crosswalk between Holiday Inn and Ramada Inn, and landscaping and people trails. Right-of-way for the project is currently being purchased. The funding of the \$8 million project is in place.

New Second Street Bridge

Plans to construct a new bridge on Second Street (SR46) over the East Fork of White River are nearly complete. The new structure is being designed by J. Muller International who also designed the I-65 overpass.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1997 with completion expected in 1998. All necessary right-of-way has been acquired and funding is available. The new bridge will carry eastbound traffic. Following the completion of the new bridge the existing Third Street bridge will be rehabilitated to carry westbound traffic.

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Thoroughfare Plan

The City has been working for over five years to update its thoroughfare plan. The thoroughfare plan serves as a planning tool which is used by the planning and engineering staffs to determine the locations of streets in new subdivisions and to plan street improvement projects.

The current plan, adopted in 1968 and revised several times, has served the City well, but needs to be updated. The engineering staff made the completion of this plan a priority for 1996. A committee of plan commissioners, city council, staff, developers, and business people was formed to review the plan and to recommend a new plan to the plan commission. That committee has one more scheduled meeting in January. The plan should be forwarded to the plan commission early in 1997. Upon completion, the plan must be approved by the Plan Commission and the City Council.

Wayfinding Project Continues

"Wayfinding" is just what it sounds like, helping people, especially visitors, to find their way to destinations within our city. The Chamber of Commerce has brought together a diverse group of business people, Visitor Center representatives, and the City Engineer to evaluate our current system (which is virtually non-existent) and how we might improve it.

In 1996, the Chamber of Commerce Foundation contracted with Corbin Design of Traverse City, Michigan to solicit public input and to design a sign system which meets our needs. The first public meetings, held in December, were well attended and were very constructive. Completion of the design phase is expected in 1997.

7th Street Bridge Replacement

The city and county are working cooperatively to replace the 7th Street bridge over Haw Creek. The county is responsible for the bridge, but the city is responsible for the approaches to the bridge including the nearby intersection of 7th and Hawcreek Blvd. Construction of the project is expected to take place in 1998.

Co. Rd. 400N to Re-Open

The County Commissioners are expected to rehabilitate and open the New Hope Bridge on Co. Rd. 400N in 1997. A portion of the road is in the city and will need to be rehabilitated and re-opened.

Rocky Ford Road

Plans for the reconstruction of Rocky Ford Road from Central Avenue to Marr Road have been completed. Those plans will be useful when the remaining property along the routes develops. The project is scheduled for construction in 1998 and 1999 if funding is approved and right-of-way is acquired.

Plans are also being prepared by AECON, Inc. for the section of Rocky Ford Road from Marr Road to Taylor Road and the extension of Taylor Road in conjunction with a county project to replace the bridge on Marr Road at 300N. A field check with INDOT engineers is expected in February, 1997. This project is scheduled for construction in 1999 if funding is approved and right-of-way is acquired. Funding for the construction of this project is expected to be 80 percent federal and 20 percent local.

Terrace Lake Road

SIECO, Inc. is currently completing plans for the improvement of Terrace Lake Road from Shields Drive to Road 200S.

The project includes the widening of the road, construction of curbs, cutting down several hills to improve sight distance, and possibly the construction of a sidewalk.

The project is scheduled to be constructed in 1996. Approximately 35 parcels of right-of-way are currently being appraised for acquisition. The proposed schedule calls for the right-of-way to be acquired by March, utility relocations in April and May, and construction in the summer months.

Drainage Improvements Planned

The City is completing plans for several major drainage improvement projects which are expected to be completed in 1997.

A storm sewer extension project is being designed by SIECO, Inc. along 6th Street between Washington and Jackson Streets.

The Chestnut Street storm sewer trunk line extension from 3rd Street to 5th Street is also being planned. This will be the second phase of a project which began in 1994.

The City Engineer's office is also examining drainage problems on Hawcreek Blvd. behind Eastbrook Shopping Center and anticipates improvements in 1997.